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Volunteer efforts earn Mowery “Angel” status

by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Gerald (Tom) Mowery Air Force Research Laboratory/DS is walking under a halo’s glow after receiving an Angel award April 25 during the 14th annual awards presentation at the United States Air Force Museum.

Created in 1988 by Eunice Welch, wife of former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Welch, the Angel awards acknowledge volunteers who make a difference in the military community.

As a certified CPR and first aid instructor for the Dayton Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Mowery conducted 29 classroom hours of training, many which were held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and were attended by Wright-Patterson AFB personnel and civilian employees.

Mowery led the AFRL Team for the 2000 Wright-Patterson Spring Clean-up. He organized the team, coordinated it with the Base Clean-up committee and acquired tools to clear debris from the Area B perimeter fences.

Within two hours of the September 2000 tornado in Xenia, he was on the scene to provide assistance. He continued to contribute to the community for several days by covering damaged roofs, directing traffic, sawing and clearing fallen trees and removing debris. He also provided transportation to and from the Red Cross Crisis Center to obtain emergency supplies.

Some of his other volunteer duties include participating in the “National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week”; assisting with construction, church services and wedding tasks at Xenia Grace Chapter Church; and preparing meals and mopping floors at his daughter’s church camp.

In his nomination, Judy Cummins stated, “His commitment to others truly provides a better place to live and work, which in turn reflects favorably upon Wright-Patterson AFB. I absolutely believe he deserves this special award.”

The winners were presented with a certificate and volunteer angel pin from Col. Michael Hazen, 88th Air Base Wing commander. Aeronautical Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Robert F. Raggio, presented winners with certificates and the angel pin, recognized worldwide throughout the military.

Of the 67 nominees, Mowery was among eight individuals and three groups to receive the award. @